

## **Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS)**

### **Sustainability Action Plan**

#### **Introduction**

This document sets out the strategic Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) for the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS). It has been created by the HASS Sustainability Committee which includes representation from all the departments within HASS, from our student body, from the HASS Faculty Executive Board (FEB), the HASS Professional Services (PS) team and the central University Sustainability team. We firmly believe and reflect in our teaching, research and impact that the paths towards sustainability lie in the social world. Our SAP reflects this belief and is rooted in our academic values including inclusivity, diversity and community. The focus of our SAP is on actions within the control of the faculty. It is a living document that will be periodically updated to reflect our changing priorities, interests, and ambitions.

#### **Guiding principles**

- 1) *Our sustainability transformation*: We need to build a sense of faculty solidarity in sustainability transformation and ensure that our whole community genuinely and authentically participates without feeling it is something being ‘done to them’.
- 2) *Towards a better University*: Ensure that we build the case and tell a story of how the transition will make our lives and experiences as scholars and professionals objectively better.
- 3) *Evidence-based*: Ensure that we design and deliver an evidence-based SAP.

#### **Baseline**

The following figures show our emissions baseline.

They are not included to penalise or stigmatise any one department within HASS but to show as honestly and transparently as we can the current situation of carbon emissions across the faculty. Naturally, each department has its own educational and operational needs with implications on its carbon emissions.

The Sustainability team can provide high-level information on the faculty building energy use and more granular data on business travel, field trips, and bought goods and services. These areas are the largest impact areas which individuals can potentially influence through their day-to-day work.

The data used to populate these charts and build our picture of the current situation are deficient in terms of their misreporting of the new Cornwall (Penryn) HASS department, and the

need to corral all HASS PS staff into the single category of ‘central’ even when these are normally departmentally based.

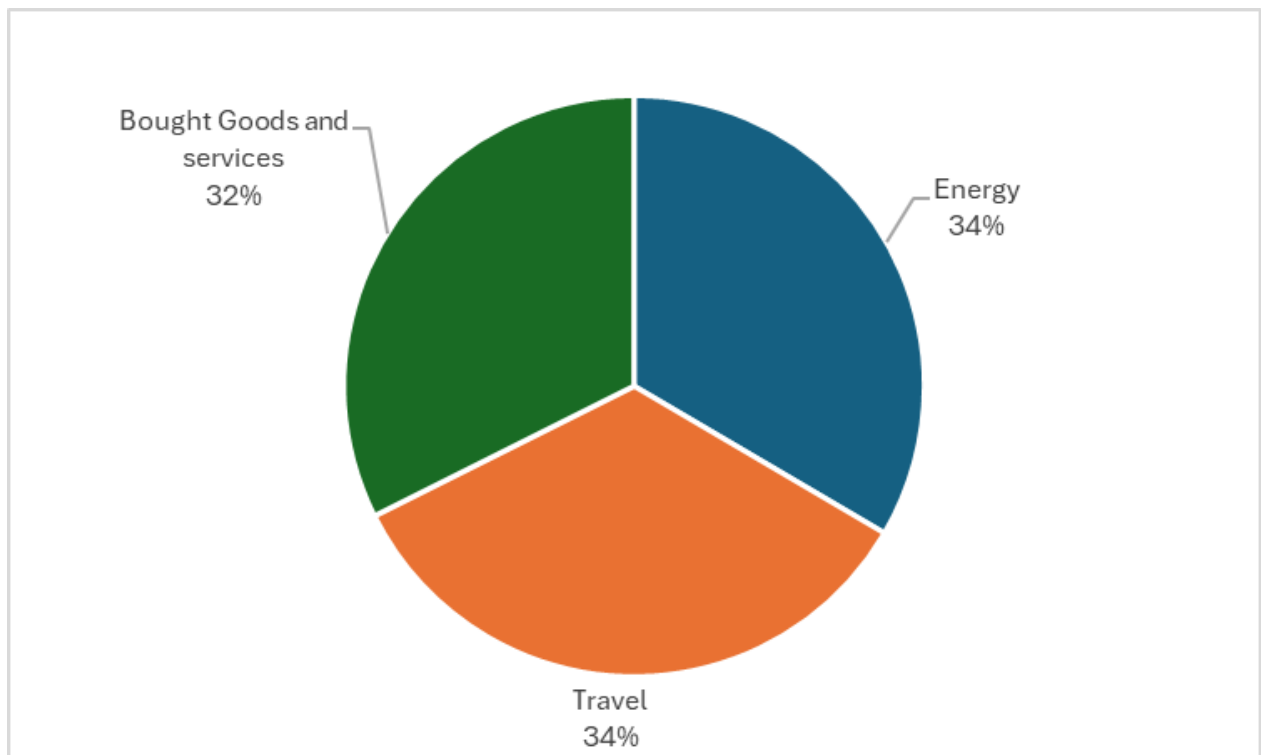


Figure 1: HASS emission for 23/24, split by area

Location Based	
	Tonnes CO2e
Energy	1150
Travel	1175
Bought Goods and Services	1113

Table 1: HASS emission for 23/24, split by area

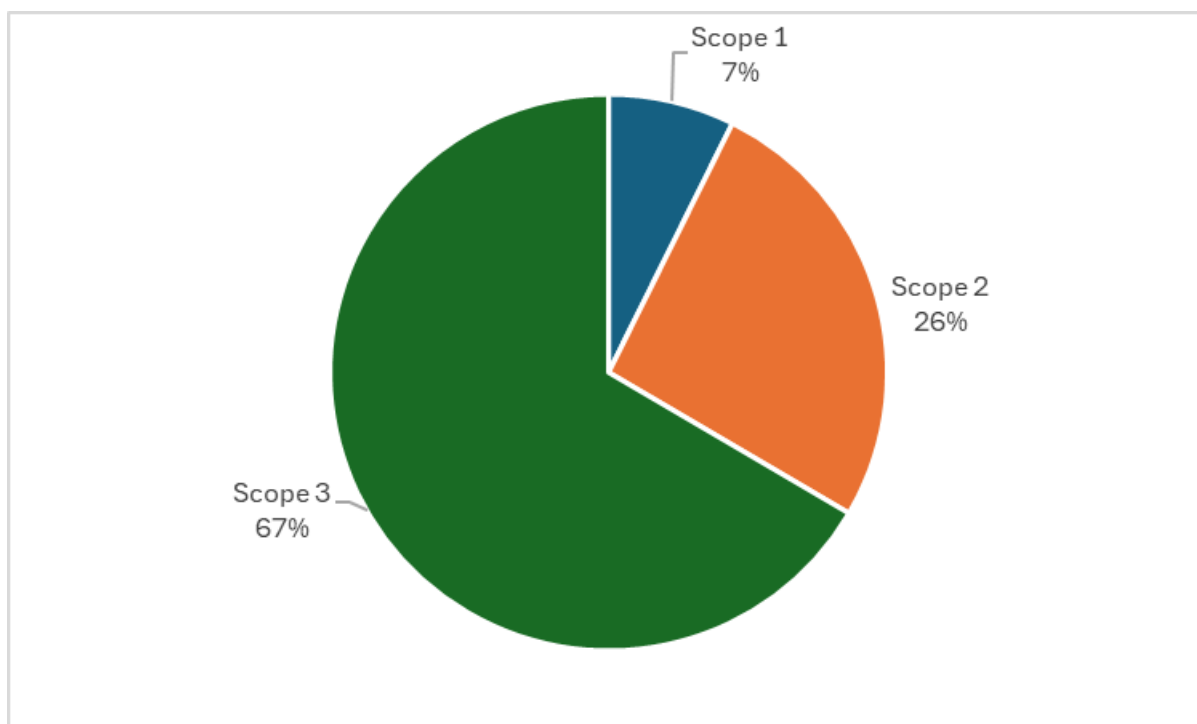


Figure 2: HASS emission for 23/24, split by scope 1, 2 and 3

Location Based	
	Tonnes CO2e
Scope 1	252
Scope 2	898
Scope 3	2289

Table 2: HASS emission for 23/24, split by scope 1, 2 and 3

What these three charts tell us is that a) there are departmental-level disparities in emissions that we might try to support, address and ameliorate, b) a degree of the emissions reduction changes will need to be driven by individual colleague behaviour(s), and that c) carbon is in everything we do as an HE institution.

## Action Plan

The HASS SAP is comprised of two kinds of action: 1) those which are project outcome (PO) orientated, and 2) those which seek to build a community and culture (CC) for transition within HASS. These are identified in the SAP below in terms of PO and CC actions.

The PO actions are largely task and finish in nature (time-bound), and/or relate to specific projects for clear and specified outcomes. The CC actions are largely open-ended in nature and relate to building a community for sustainability and establishing the scaffolding that will support cultural change.

This first iteration of the HASS SAP establishes an action plan for the coming two academic years. The table below shows priority actions only, not the full faculty action plan.

## Priority actions 24/25

<b>PO1</b>	<b>Develop a HASS sustainability brand</b>
<b>PO2</b>	<b>Conduct a HASS faculty energy audit</b>
<b>PO3</b>	<b>Teaching: Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) teaching mapping and workshop</b>
<b>PO4</b>	<b>Embedding sustainability across HASS education</b> (in line with Curriculum for Change).
<b>PO5</b>	<b>HASS low-carbon travel programme</b>  Bring together various University sustainability travel policies in a single colleague-facing online space and consult colleagues on the opportunities for improving and/or creating new schemes.
<b>PO7</b>	<b>HASS sustainability external commercial (consultation)</b>  Consult on the potential for leveraging the sustainability-facing skills and knowledges of HASS colleagues into an external knowledge/ commercial offer.
<b>CC1</b>	<b>HASS sustainability web-hub</b>  Establish a HASS sustainability web presence to act as the central organising nexus for all things sustainability in HASS.
<b>CC2</b>	<b>Engagement &amp; outreach programme</b>  Every year, tour around all the departments in HASS for a) a 10-minute sustainability update in an all-colleague staff meeting and b) for a voluntary one-hour department specific sustainability ‘town hall’ session.
<b>CC3</b>	<b>Staff &amp; student sustainability research surveys</b>  An open-ended project to every year conduct a) an all-colleague sustainability survey to understand colleagues’ sustainability concerns, ideas, and successes; and b) a HASS student sustainability survey to answer/address similar topics.
<b>CC4</b>	<b>Spaces and nature plan</b>  Create a plan of activities and opportunities for colleagues to engage with campus natures and to proactively advocate for more nature positive campus spaces.
<b>Cross-faculty Agenda One</b>	<b>Funding for accountability</b>  Work with cross-faculty sustainability leads to agree accountability matrix; and agree on advocating a funding for accountability arrangement (subject to FEB approval) to fund HASS SAP transformative projects.
<b>Cross-faculty</b>	<b>Sustainability projects fund</b>

<b>Agenda Two</b>	Work with cross-faculty sustainability leads to agree the terms of a sustainability projects fund and an advocacy plan to bring it forwards.
<b>Cross-faculty Agenda Three</b>	<b>Cultural change</b> Progress a collaborative cross-faculty culture change agenda. Establish cross-faculty working (sub) group and first meeting. Recruit culture change advocates.

#### Engagement and Resourcing

- PO1 HASS Sustainability brand development
- CC2 Engagement/outreach programme
- CC1 HASS Sustainability web-hub
- CC3 Staff & Student Sustainability Research Surveys

*Agenda One: Funding for Accountability*

#### Energy

- PO2 HASS Faculty Goods & Services Audit

#### Education

- PO3 Teaching: SDG teaching mapping and workshop
- PO4 Embedding sustainability across HASS education

#### Travel

- PO5 HASS low carbon travel programme
- PO6 HASS Infrequent Flyer Scheme

#### Nature Positive

- CC4 Spaces and Nature plan

#### Governance

- PO7 Consult on the creation of HASS-Sustainability external commercial offering

*Agenda Two: Faculty-level Sustainability Projects Fund*

*Agenda Three: Cultural Change*

#### **Governance**

Delivery, governance and reporting of this action plan will be through both periodic and unscheduled-informal updates to the HASS Faculty Strategy Group, and through two formal processes. Progress against the action plan will be made annually to *both* a) the Advocate

Climate Taskforce and b) the HASS Faculty Executive Board (in written report and verbal explanation formats).

## **Conclusion**

As a community of social scientists, artists, and scholars of the humanities we understand deeply the power of building a community of transformation. Institutional-scale policies and initiatives will help enormously, but if we are truly going to become a transformed institution then we need a new culture and way of existing as scholars and professionals. Understanding and leveraging the social world is our ‘HASS-superpower’ on the journey of institutional transformation.